Looking back our endangered icons

One hundred cassowary feeding stations have been set up by the Department of Environment & Resource Management across the Cassowary Coast region, including 32 authorised stations on private property. Local people have given DERM tremendous support by reporting cassowaries that are hungry (1300 130 372) or near roads (cassowary sighting@derm.qld.gov.au) and by cutting up fruit (ph 4091 8012).

New information centres for Cassowary Coast residents

The Cassowary Coast Regional Council, in partnership with the Department of Communities, is setting up its new information centres. The centres will be at the Cardwell Library, the Tully Heads Community Centre, the Mission Beach Woolworths complex and a new building between the Tully Civic Centre and the Tully Library.

New jobs caring for children

Do you need a new job or do you need a change? Cassowary Coast Regional Council is looking for family daycare educators. The Cassowary Coast Regional Council provides home-based child care for 200 children across the region. Increasing demand for family day care places means the scheme needs more educators. Are you interested?

Useful Numbers

Accommodation: 1800 623 308
Asbestos advice: 4030 2222
Australian Red Cross: 1800 733 131
Building Services Authority: 1300 433 236
Business Assistance: 1800 173 349
Cassowary Coast Regional Council (general number): 4043 2222
Demolition advice: 4043 9150
Donation requests: 4030 2222
Farm clean-ups: 13 25 23
or BlazeAid 0408 701 226
Innisfail Support Centre: 4043 8400
Insurance Council Hotline: 1300 728 228
Insurance Ombudsman: 1300 780 808
Interpreting Service: 13 14 50
Legal advice (cassowary-related): 1300 65 118
Lifeline: 13 1114
Premier’s Disaster Relief Appeal applications: 1800 22 66
SES: 13 25 00
Tully Support Centre: 4068 1004

In Brief

Recovering from Trauma Web Seminars

For the web-savvy, a four-part “webinar” series has been developed specifically for people who have recently experienced floods, fire and cyclones. It is a series focusing on children, individuals, families and communities and on how to recover from trauma. The webinars are held live online from 8pm to 9pm (EST) with a Resilience and Trauma session on May 16 and a Community session on June 6. Register at: www.questsforlife.com.au/webinars

Free children’s program

A free after-school program is now on offer to help children with a range of issues such as expressing their feelings, discovering and building new strengths, thinking positively, beating shyness and dealing with bullying. The program is being run by staff at the Innisfail Support Centre. It begins on May 5 and will run for eight weeks on Thursdays from 3.15pm to 4.30pm.

For more information, or to register your child, phone Sherrie or Natasha on 4043 8400.

Feeling overstretched?

A huge event like Cyclone Yasi can put us all under more pressure than usual. Juggling efforts to clean up, find a new place to live, sort out finances, work through insurance claims and more can leave you feeling overwhelmed. It can also lead to health concerns, from physical problems to stress and anxiety. At times like these, recreational and relaxation pursuits may also be disrupted. Many people who are used to dealing with everything themselves are reluctant to ask for help. But talking issues through with someone is an important step towards solving problems and relieving pressure.

Tully Support Centre has helped six families work through insurance claims and relieving pressure.

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Tully Support Centre has helped six families work through insurance claims and relieving pressure.

New home New hope

“Now you have a bed, a door we can close and a ceiling above us that isn’t going to come down…it’s a big relief!”

Tully Heads residents Lill Wollf and Lee Wills will be the first to call a set of transportable units “home” at the Tully Heads Community Centre.

Transportable homes and caravans have been set up for displaced residents in Cardwell, Tully, Tully Heads and Mission Beach. More temporary accommodation is expected to arrive in Tully and at different locations in Tully Heads in coming weeks.

Shower, toilet and laundry blocks have also been set up in communities.

Council’s Pauline Van der Linde says the accommodation is for residents who have “an exit strategy” and who are having repairs or rebuilding work on their homes. She says accommodation is also available for workers and tradesmen helping to rebuild communities.

For Lill Wollf, the temporary home is a light at the end of the tunnel.

“It’s been stressful but it changes when you see that things are happening,” she says.

“It’s been a tough couple of months. We are slowly coming down from ‘Yasi brain’,” she says. She says Yasi has brought communities and people together.

“We find that if you look for the funny side in things it helps you and those around you. We now have friends we never even knew before this.”

Innisfail Support Centre: 4043 8400
Tully Support Centre: 4068 1004
Tully Tavern: 0457 443 811 or
Georgina Van Park 4066 9332.
Mission Beach: Council camping ground 0418 971 332.
For any related housing queries phone Council on 4030 2252.
A message from the Recovery Committee Chair
Given our Cassowary Coast communities have transitioned from cyclone-response phase to recovery phase it is vital that the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, state agencies and Council work together to ensure we rebuild better and stronger.

We must ensure that our communities are fully informed about our deliberations and actions, and our communities’ input is a vital component of the Cyclone Yasi Recovery Plan.

The recovery process will be transparent and inclusive of all community stakeholders to ensure we deliver outcomes that will be beneficial to our future economic and social wellbeing. Please participate in this very important phase of the cyclone recovery which will ultimately ensure that our communities are stronger and more resilient.

Cr Mark Nolan
Chair - Cyclone Yasi Recovery Committee

Queensland Reconstruction Authority Update
My team at the Queensland Reconstruction Authority is working hard with the local community to get the region back on its feet.

In late March, the Cassowary Coast Regional Council received an accelerated sum of $19.9 million in funding through the Queensland Reconstruction Authority. It’s part of an initial statewide funding injection to ensure that critical reconstruction works can get under way as quickly as possible. Much of the funding will be directed towards reconstructing the road network.

This fast-tracked payment is about stimulating local and regional economies as quickly as possible whilst still ensuring that Queenslanders get value for money in the process. We have been out in the community meeting with locals in the hardest hit areas of Cardwell, Tully and Tully Heads, and working with the relevant government departments and council officers to keep things moving.

I’ll keep you updated on our progress.

Mike Keating
Director, For North Queensland

Where do butterflies go in a cyclone?
A few days after Cyclone Yasi I saw perfectly-formed butterflies, with no wing damage, searching for nectar in the few flowers left in my garden.

As the clean-up from Cyclone Yasi continues, it’s important to remember that animals use tree hollows and fallen logs for shelter and to build nests.

Cyclone Larry left a number of broken trees on my property and in the last five years I have been delighted to watch fig parrots burrow a hole into the dead trunk of an old sarsaparilla tree. A broken branch on a papaw bark has left a hollow and a family of sugar gliders now makes it their home. A family of frogmouth owls have found hollows in one of the trees and have had several successful breeding seasons.

After Cyclone Yasi I searched for my animal friends and found them all safe in their hollows. These trees that were damaged by Cyclone Larry miraculously survived Yasi.

When cleaning up after a cyclone like Yasi, it is not necessary to remove broken or fallen trees from forested areas. The debris is integral to the resilience of the forest. Rain and humidity will work with fungi and microorganisms to convert leaves, branches and fallen tree to humus. This is a vital part of the nutrient cycle in the rainforest. Small trees which are saplings of primary rainforest species, sometimes dormant on the forest floor for over 100 years, will be stimulated into growth by the sunlight and the changed microclimate. They will start to reach for the sky, no longer inhibited by the dense shade of their parent trees.

Seed held in the branches of fallen trees will sprout and be nourished by abundant nutrients released from cyclone debris. In a few years seedlings and saplings will grow to form a new forest canopy. It only takes that long. Clearing by machine or fire will break the natural cycle and the subsequent rainforest will not have the resilience or diversity in tree regrowth or animal habitat that the natural system would recreate if left alone.

Yvonne Cunningham
Violets & Lace Garden Centre

Work begins to remove debris from waterways
Cyclone debris is being removed from waterways, following a State Government funding allocation of $420,000. Contractors are beginning work at Bluewater Creek south of Cardwell, Hoban Creek near Tully, the Tully town area, a drainage line running parallel to Paradise Palm Drive at Tully Heads, Wongaling Creek and other small creeks at Mission Beach and the Silkwood-Mena Creek area.

The Cardwell & Johnstone river trusts have made submissions for $1.37M under the QD3 Disaster Recovery arrangements, so more work is expected to follow. Residents can continue to report cyclone-related damage or blockage to waterways by ringing 4043 9127.

TULLY STATE SCHOOL POEMS

Dangerous Yasi
It brought lots of destruction.
I was not happy.
Udham Preet Singh

Destructive monster,
Cardwell, Tully, Mission Beach.
All targets in its path.
Mia Orland

That Cyclone Yasi,
The one that destroyed our town.
I just want to cry.
Nathan Long

Cyclone Yasi
Winds came strong and hard.
Roofs off houses all around.
Bits flying down town.
Rachel Laursden

TIP OF THE MONTH
Set aside a “worry” time
Some people find it difficult to stop worrying. Worry tends to be in their minds at all times, interfering with work or other activities. A useful way of dealing with too much worry is to set aside a “worry time.” This can be, for example, half an hour just after work. At any other time, when a worrying issue comes to mind, acknowledge to yourself that you need to think it through and note that you will do so during your “worry time.”

Put this thought out of your mind for the time being and allow yourself to get on with the task at hand. At the appointed time, think the issue through and try to use one of the following approaches. Ask yourself:

Is the problem solvable? Be realistic. Be aware of unhelpful thoughts. Be your best friend. Use your heart as well as your head and remember to keep calm.

Advice from Dr. Timothy Sharp

St Claire’s School Drawings

Tree giveaways & cyclone specials
Council nurseries will be running their usual tree giveaway program soon, so look out for details in your local newspaper. In addition, they will be having some “cyclone specials” to help locals revetigate cyclone-damaged properties.

For more information phone 4068 0055.